CLAIMS

1. A method for identifying and/or making compounds for use in reducing and/or preventing fibrosis, comprising the steps:

(a) providing a cell type capable of expressing TIEG and/or Smad-7;

(b) providing a test compound;

(c) providing an amount of CTGF or a functional equivalent thereof;

(d) exposing the cell type to the test compound;

(e) subsequently or simultaneously exposing the cell type to the CTGF or a functional equivalent thereof;

(f) detecting and/or measuring the production of Smad-7 and/or TIEG;

(g) comparing the amount of Smad-7 and/or TIEG expressed in the presence of the test compound with the amount of Smad-7 and/or TIEG expressed detected and/or measured in the absence of the test compound; and

(h) determining if a compound reduces and/or prevents fibrosis on the basis that it causes no change or an increase in Smad-7 expression and/or no change or a decrease in TIEG expression.

2. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of:

(i) isolation of a test compound resulting in no change or an increase in Smad-7 expression and/or no change or a decrease in TIEG expression.

3. The method of Claim 2 further comprising the step of

(j) formulating the isolated compound into a composition further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, excipient and/or diluent.

4. The method of any previous Claim wherein the compound interacts directly with the interaction between CTGF and TIEG.

5. The method of any of claims 1 to 3 wherein the compound interacts indirectly with the interaction between CTGF and TIEG.

6. A compound which is capable of reducing and/or preventing the activity of CTGF in the induction of TIEG expression and/or suppression of Smad-7 expression.

7. A compound identified and/or made by the method of any of claims 1 to 5 for use in reducing and/or preventing the activity of CTGF in the induction of TIEG expression and/or suppression of Smad-7 expression.

8. A compound as claimed in either of Claims 6 and 7 which is at least one selected from polypeptides, antibody molecules and antisense nucleotides.

9. A compound as claimed in Claim 8 wherein the compound is an antibody molecule.

10. A compound as claimed in Claim 8 wherein the compound is an antisense nucleotide.

11. Use of a compound identified and/or made by the method of any of claims 1 to 5 in the treatment and/or prevention and/or diagnosis of a fibrotic disease.

12. Use of a compound identified and/or made by the method of any of claims 1 to 5 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment and/or prevention and/or diagnosis of a fibrotic disease.

13. A use as claimed in any one of Claims 11 or 12 wherein the fibrotic disease is one selected from diabetic nephropathy, non-diabetic kidney fibrosis, lung fibrosis, liver fibrosis (cirrhosis), skeletal muscle fibrosis, cardiac muscle fibrosis, atherosclerosis, systemic sclerosis, scleroderma, retinal fibrosis, radiation fibrosis, keloid scar formation and cancer-associated fibrosis.

14. A use as claimed in Claim 13 wherein the disease is diabetic nephropathy.

15. A method of treating and/or preventing a fibrotic disease comprising administering a therapeutically or prophylactically effective dose, or plurality of doses, of a compound identified and/or made by the method of any of Claims 1 to 5.

16. A method of treating and/or preventing a fibrotic disease comprising administering a therapeutically or prophylactically effective dose, or plurality of doses, of a compound as claimed in any of Claims 6 to 10.

17. A method as claimed in either Claims 15 or 16 wherein the fibrotic disease is one selected from diabetic nephropathy, non-diabetic kidney fibrosis, lung fibrosis, liver fibrosis (cirrhosis), skeletal muscle fibrosis, cardiac muscle fibrosis, atherosclerosis, systemic sclerosis, scleroderma, retinal fibrosis, radiation fibrosis, keloid scar formation and cancer-associated fibrosis.

18. A use as claimed in Claim 17 wherein the disease is diabetic nephropathy.